

Message Text

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ORIGIN IO-14

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-25 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 ARA-16

EA-11 NEA-10 RSC-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20 ACDA-19

USIE-00 INRE-00 DRC-01 /169 R

DRAFTED BY IO/UNP:RCREIS:MAK

APPROVED BY THE ACTING SECRETARY

AF:CROSS (INFORMED)

EUR:WSTABLER

IO;DHPOPPER

S/S - MR. BARNES

----- 067360

O R 081404Z NOV 73

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMCONSUL LOURENCO MARQUES

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E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: PFOR, UN, MZ, PO

SUBJECT: RESOLUTION ON COMMISSION OF INQUIRY IN MOZAMBIQUE

REFS: USUN 4480, USUN 4481

1. USDEL SHOULD VOTE AGAINST DRAFT RESOLUTION ON COMMISSION OF INQUIRY IN MOZAMBIQUE. HOWEVER, DEL NEED NOT REQUEST VOTE IF ATTEMPT IS MADE TO ADOPT RESOLUTION BY CONSENSUS. DEPARTMENT BELIEVES IT WOULD BE PREFERABLE FOR DEL NOT TO MAKE ANY STATEMENT EITHER IN CASE OF NO VOTE OR CONSENSUS.

2. WE HAVE CAREFULLY CONSIDERED WHAT OUR POSITION SHOULD BE IN THE EVENT THERE IS NO VOTE, I.E. MOVE FOR APPROVAL BY CONSENSUS. PORTUGUESE AMBASSADOR CALLED DEPT NOV 6 AND
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ARGUED THAT CONSENSUS WOULD BE "VERY BAD" BECAUSE IT WOULD

INFLUENCE VOTE IN PLENARY; CLAIMED THAT FRENCH AND UK WOULD VOTE NO IN COMMITTEE VOTE; AND SUGGESTED THAT US CONSULT WITH FRENCH AND BRITISH IN ORDER TO FORCE A VOTE IN THE FOURTH COMMITTEE- CLEAR IMPLICATION WAS THAT PORTUGUESE THEMSELVES DO NOT EXPECT TO BE PRESENT IN FOURTH COMMITTEE, WHOSE PROCEEDINGS THEY HAVE BEEN BOYCOTTING.

3. YOU SHOULD INFORM PORTUGUESE DEL SOONEST THAT WE ARE PREPARED TO VOTE AGAINST THE RESOLUTION. HOWEVER, WE ARE NOT PREPARED TO FORCE THE ISSUE TO A VOTE IF CONSENSUS PROCEDURE IS EMPLOYED AND WOULD EXPECT THAT PORTUGAL ITSELF

WOULD ATTEND FOURTH COMMITTEE MEETING TO REQUEST ANY SUCH VOTE. WHILE WE ARE PREPARED TO BE AS HELPFUL AS POSSIBLE TO PORTUGAL, WE SEE NO REASON WHY WE SHOULD SHOULDER THE ENTIRE BURDEN ON BEHALF OF PORTUGAL. WE PRESUME THAT PORTUGUESE ARE ALREADY AWARE THAT UK AND FRENCH WILL NOT OPPOSE RESOLUTION IN A VOTE.

4. WHILE WE DO NOT WISH US TO MAKE STATEMENT IN EVENT OF EITHER VOTING OR CONSENSUS, YOU ARE AUTHORIZED IN CORRIDOR CONVERSATIONS TO MAKE CLEAR THAT WE REGARD AUTHORIZATION OF COMMISSION OF INQUIRY AS DANGEROUS PRECEDENT WHICH COULD COME TO PLAGUE MANY MEMBER NATIONS AT A LATER TIME. WE RECOGNIZE THAT THE INTENT IN MANY CASES (NOTABLY SOME OF THE EUROPEANS) IS HUMANITARIAN; BUT VOTE TO DISPATCH AN INQUIRY COMMISSION TO TERRITORY OF A MEMBER STATE THAT WILL DENY IT ENTRY IS BAD PRACTICE. IT CAN BE PLAUSIBLY ARGUED THAT IT WOULD REPRESENT INTERFERENCE IN INTERNAL AFFAIRS -- AND THAT PORTUGAL ADMINISTERS A NON-SELF-GOVERNING TERRITORY SHOULD NOT BLIND SOME OF THE SUPPORTERS OF THE COMMISSION TO FACT THAT ONCE PRECEDENT IS ESTABLISHED IT COULD BE USED ALSO WITH RESPECT TO A SELF-GOVERNING TERRITORY IN THE FUTURE. FYI. WE ARE MINDFUL THAT THIS ACTION, WHICH ORIGINATED IN COMMITTEE OF 24, COULD QUITE EASILY BE USED AS PRECEDENT FOR ATTEMPT TO SEND SIMILAR COMMISSION TO PUERTO RICO, FOR INSTANCE. END FYI. RUSH

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